



FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES PROGRAM REQUESTS

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) - The CSFP works to improve the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious United States Department of Agriculture commodity foods. It also provides food and administrative funds to states to supplement the diets of these groups. Accordingly, I urge the Subcommittee to provide adequate funding in fiscal year 2010 for this important program.

Emergency Food Assistance Program - This program provides United States Department of Agriculture commodities to states and food banks for distribution to impoverished families, children and the elderly. In light of the struggling economy and increasing numbers of needy people turning to charities for short-term emergency food assistance, I urge the Subcommittee to support full funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program at the authorized level for commodity food purchase, and the authorized level of \$100 million for the storage and distribution costs associated with moving, processing, and storing commodities.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) - This program provides funding to purchase nutritious supplemental foods to low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, to infants and to children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. Almost half of all infants born in the United States benefit from the WIC program. This crucial program has been proven to reduce infant mortality, increase birth weight and help ensure that needy children can reach their full potential. I urge the Subcommittee to provide increased funding in fiscal year 2010 for the WIC program above the fiscal year 2009 level.

Food Bank Infrastructure Grant Program - The 2008 Farm Bill authorized \$15 million annually to assist food banks in maintaining and improving facilities and other equipment for storing and transporting food. I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$15 million for grants to help food banks meet the challenge of high transportation costs in rural, under-served, areas.

Dairy Export Incentive Program – The Dairy Export Incentive Program was established to facilitate the development of an international market for United States dairy products. Specifically, this program helps exporters of United States dairy products meet prevailing world prices for targeted dairy products and destinations. The objective of the program is to develop export markets for dairy products where United States products are not competitive because of the presence of subsidized products from other countries. In light of the significant financial crisis faced by our nation's dairy farmers in the last year, it is vital that the Subcommittee provide adequate funding to allow for the full operation of this program.

Market Access Program – The Market Access Program provides assistance to United States companies to market their products internationally. This program is important to small companies and farmers who would otherwise be unable to compete with international competitors, many of whom are subsidized by their own

countries. I have heard from many Pennsylvania companies, including apple producers, which have found this program essential to their ability to compete internationally. Accordingly, I urge the Subcommittee to provide adequate funding to allow for the full operation of this program.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – The FDA regulates the safety of foods and the safety and effectiveness of drugs, biologics and medical devices. I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding at the highest possible level above the fiscal year 2009 level. This increase will allow the FDA to improve its infrastructure and assure the safety of foods and the safety and efficacy of drugs and medical devices, as well as increase the FDA’s ability to fulfill its mission.

Food and Drug Administration’s Critical Path Public-Private Partnerships – Congress authorized the Critical Path Public-Private Partnership research and education initiative to address the need for the FDA to have access to a broader group of scientists to support its research missions. This program will improve clinical trials by moving biomedical and genetic research into therapies for patients. I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$25 million to support funding for this program as authorized by section 603 of the FDA Amendments Act of 2007.

National Veterinary Medical Services Act - I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$5 million for implementation of a student loan repayment program created by National Veterinary Medical Services Act. There is a national shortage of veterinarians, specifically food animal veterinarians in rural areas. Many young veterinary college graduates would like to practice and live in rural areas, but their educational loan debt prohibits them from doing so. This student loan repayment program will lower the financial barriers to rural practice for the next generation of veterinarians, strengthening national food safety, emergency preparedness, animal welfare and local communities.